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# **Confessions of Herbert Hibberd Pearce**

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**STARTLING EXPOSURE OF LIBERAL  
PARTY BY THEIR OWN AGENT**

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## **PLUGGING SCANDAL**

**Sworn evidence of Pearce before Parlia-  
mentary Committee, Victoria, May 1916**

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Herein are printed extracts from the sworn evidence of Herbert Hibberd Pearce, setting forth the facts concerning the plugging operations at the **Vancouver** Bye-Election, February 26, 1916, and revealing who were behind the scenes directing the illegal and nefarious attempt to corrupt the Electorate and steal the Election.

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### **LIBERAL MACHINE CORRUPT**

The Liberal Party in Vancouver has posed as the Party of Purity, but the evidence of Pearce before the Parliamentary Committee, which was not challenged by official Liberalism, tears away the mask and reveals the maggot of corruption at the heart of British Columbia Liberalism.

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### **THE STORY ITSELF**

Pearce's story was told with a wealth of detail, and was unshaken by the rigid cross-examination of Mr. Brewster. Corroborative evidence of details by other witnesses stamps it with the seal of truth.

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Mr. M. A. Macdonald, Liberal candidate, who Pearce claims provided him with **funds**, made his boast from the public platform that he had not lost one hour of sleep or one inch of stature over the plugging scandal. Contrast this statement with the unhappy plight of Pearce, who was confined in a dark room in Seattle, under the guardianship of John T. Scott and Jerry Finch.





# PLUGGING SCANDAL INVESTIGATION, 1916

## WHO IS PEARCE ?

Let C. B. Patterson, Secretary of Liberal Association, introduce his co-worker. Questioned by Mr. Brewster, Mr. C. B. Patterson gave the following answers:

Q. Who was the man that wrote these names? A. Pearce, I think it was.

Q. Do you know Pearce yourself? A. I do—yes.

Q. Was he working under you or under Scott? A. Well, he was working under Scott, he was in the office there; he was a member of Ward 2 Liberal Association.

Q. A member of Ward 2 Liberal Association? A. Yes.

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## PEARCE AN EX-EMPLOYEE OF SUN

Herbert Hibberd Pearce, called and duly sworn, testifies; examined by Mr. Miller.

Q. What is your full name? A. Herbert Hibberd Pearce.

Q. Do you reside in Vancouver? A. Yes, in Vancouver.

Q. How long have you resided in Vancouver? A. Two and a half years.

Q. What has been your occupation while you were there?  
A. My occupation has been working for the Sun Newspaper and after that I worked for the Liberal Association in the Northwest Trust Building, on the top floor of the Northwest Trust Building, and I have been working with Scott all the time.

Q. Mr. John T. Scott? A. Yes; previous to him coming there, I had no account to work, I had money then.

Q. You say you worked with Scott? A. Yes, most of the time I was in Vancouver I worked with Scott.

Q. Do you know where Scott came from? A. Well, he has told me so many places; he has told me that he came from Alberta, and he told me that he came from Edmonton, and he told me he came from Detroit; and he told me other places—and the Lord only knows where he did come from.

### PEARCE A LIBERAL CANVASSER

Q. Were you working in connection with the election in Vancouver? A. Yes.

Q. That is the Bye-election in Vancouver? A. Yes, I was working in the Bye-election in Vancouver; I was working for Scott in the Northwest Trust Building, and before that I worked on the Sun Newspaper.

Q. What work were you doing for him? A. I was working in every ward in the city, with the exception of Ward 1.

Q. You worked in all the wards with the exception of Ward 1? A. Yes.

Q. What did your duties consist of? A. I was engaged as a canvasser, and then I was put in charge of the Scrutineers' books, entering up the Scrutineers' books.

### MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLUGGING

Q. Do you know of any plugging going on during the election? A. Well I should think I do; I think I was the main guy that day.

Q. I want to find out what arrangement there was about this plugging? A. The arrangement——

Q. For the plugging? A. For the plugging?

Q. You say that there were some arrangements made in connection with the plugging; I presume that that would be in respect of dead men, or men who were absent, and somebody would be voting for them? A. Yes.

Q. It would be in respect of the men who were dead and away? A. Yes, well, I would not say dead, but it would be men who would be absent, or that we would know were not in the city at that time.



Q. How did you arrange so that it would be safe to have a man go in and plug votes for these people? A. Well, they arranged it by cards.

Q. Were the scrutineers' books fixed? A. Yes.

Q. So that these men would not be challenged? A. Yes.

Q. I want to find out what was done? A. Well, they were marked up in the scrutineers' books as being O.K., if they were Liberals, that was the same mark as a Liberal; and so that the scrutineers would know when they came in, that they were not to be challenged; they would look at the books, and they would say, Well, this man is a Liberal, he is alright; it is no use challenging that man.

Q. Therefore the lists handed to the scrutineers contained the names of men marked O.K., or Liberal, who were actually away out of the city? A. Yes. They had them down in columns, Conservative, Liberal, Doubtful, and several other columns, Socialist, and so on. And in the columns it was marked O.K., they were just marked off with a stroke if they were Liberal.

Q. Who instructed you to do that class of work in connection with the lists? A. Mr. Scott.

Q. Mr. Scott got you to do that work? A. Yes.

### WHO PAID PEARCE ?

Q. How were you paid, that is, when you were paid, how were you paid? A. I was paid by cheque sometimes, and sometimes by cash.

Q. Yes, but who signed the cheques? A. Mr. M. A. Macdonald and Mr. Pound.

### FURTHER PROGRESS

#### Gosden Busy on Waterfront—That 303 List

Q. Do you know anything about the Longshoremen's List that came in to the office; we have a list here that has been referred to as the 303 List? A. Ward 4.

Q. In Ward 4? A. Yes.

Q. How did that come in? A. A man of the name of Gosden brought that in to Scott's office in the afternoon; I should think it was about 5 o'clock, but I don't remember the time just to the

minute; and it was given to me to take round to Mr. Anderson's office, in the Credit Foncier Building.

Q. Was Gosden working with Scott in connection with the election? A. Well, I could not make out his business at all; every time he would come in there, he would be accompanied by another man, sometimes this man would come inside, and other times he stayed outside the office.

Q. Mr. Gosden used to come to Scott's office frequently had he? A. Yes, he was in there pretty often.

Q. He had frequent communications with Scott? A. Two or three times a day, I guess; that would be pretty nearly for about a fortnight before the election. He came there about the time that Scruton came to work there.

Q. How long did it take you to prepare these lists and get them into shape, so that they could be used for the purpose you mentioned? A. How do you mean?

Q. How many days were you working on these lists? A. There was no lists, there was the books.

Q. Well, how long did it take you to gather the information which enabled you safely to send men to the polls to plug? A. I guess it was going on unknown to me for fully a week, as far as I can remember; the way I first got to hear about it was that there was a Miss Knight in the office, and there was Mr. Scruton, writing out the cards, and there was this stenographer that Scott was married to, she was writing out cards for fully a week before the election.

### PROGRESSIVE CLUB LENDS A HELPING HAND

Q. How many people were there engaged in the work of getting those lists ready for the scrutineers; could you give me the names of any of them? A. Well, do you mean in all the wards?

Q. Yes? A. Ward 2 was shifted from the Northwest Trust Building to Mr. Girton's office in the Metropolitan Building on the tenth floor; and Mr. J. Cook and Mr. Woodford were doing that work; Cook was a member of Ward 2 Association, and Mr. Woodford was a member of Ward—No, I think he was a member of the Progressive Club—I think he was the Secretary or the Presi-



dent of the club, and they were the two that furnished me with the cards to take that night before the election.

Q. What kind of cards A. The kind of cards that I took up there.

Q. That is the cards with the names of the voters? A. Yes, with the names on.

Q. With the names of people who were absent? A. Names, addresses and occupations.

Q. Of the people who were absent? A. Of the men that was absent.

Q. What were these cards like; have you got any of them? A. I think I can furnish you with a dozen or so.

Q. Have you got any with you now? A. No, I have not got any cards with me now; I came from Seattle—they are in Vancouver—I came from Seattle, where they have had me in jail practically speaking.

Q. Who was it put you in jail in Seattle so to speak? A. Well, a man named Scott, and Macdonald, and the reason I say they put me in jail is that I have been kept under their eye all the while; they had a Thiel detective belonging to Schultz Agency following me up, Schultz has had a man following me around, which I have one of their cards from the hotel where I am staying now. Of course my name that I had there was Mitchell, James Carter Mitchell.

Q. You were registered there under an assumed name? A. They had me there under an assumed name.

Q. That is, in Seattle? A. Yes, that is the phone number, 955; and one morning I was told that a police constable from Vancouver was over for me with a subpoena, and they told me to lay low and keep dark, and I could not keep dark any more than I was with the blinds in my room all down, and with the door locked; and I could not lay any lower than I was, I was on the bed, and I could not get any lower than that unless I lay on the floor.

#### ABSENT SOLDIERS TO BE IMPERSONATED

Q. The cards which were used, do you know where they were printed? A. They were not printed at all, the first ones.

Q. The first cards were not printed? A. No.

Q. Were any of them printed? A. Well, I could not say; the first lot of cards were not printed. But after, the Western Printing Company did a lot of printing; they used to supply a lot of the stuff; they printed a lot of the cards.

Q. You went over and got some cards from Girton's office?  
A. Yes.

Q. How many cards did you get? A. I got two bundles from there.

Q. What did they amount to in number? A. Oh, I should say 1,000 cards. There would be 1,000 in the two bundles easy; a couple of bundles like that of cards, not very thick cards.

Q. Were they all written out? A. All written out.

Q. All written out A. Yes.

Q. Of what names? A. With the names of men that were absent.

Q. Absentees and any others? A. Of men that were enlisted, and soldiers, and gone away, and so forth.

Q. Names of men who were not likely to be in Vancouver to vote? A. The names of men that they knew would not be there.

Q. What did you do with those cards? A. I took them over to the Northwest Trust Building to Mr. Scott.

Q. Yes? A. In the first place, before I went to the Northwest Trust Building to Mr. Scott, I had number 5 Ward book with me.

Q. Yes? A. And I took that to Anderson in the Credit Foncier Building.

Q. Yes? A. And Mr. Woodford had these cards then in his overcoat pocket.

Q. Yes? A. And in the left pocket were the O.K. cards that were checked up on the books; and the other cards were the ones that they didn't have time to check on the books, see.

Yes? A. And I took these over to Mr. Scott, and when I got to Mr. Scott's office I was going inside naturally, and Mr. McCarty was there.



Q. Yes? A. And I drew back from the door, and Scott says alright, come in; and I came in; and Scott says to me, he says, — it; is that all the cards they have got ready, and I says, I don't know; that is what they gave me. So he turned round to McCarty, and he says, I guess there will be enough; those are the words he used, and at the same time there was about four or five of them outside writing.

### MORE CARDS NEEDED

Q. Have you any idea how many cards there were prepared in the names of dead men and absentees? A. Quite a number of them; there would be something like 5,000 altogether.

Q. 5,000 cards? A. 5,000, but they were not all used.

Q. You don't know how many were used? A. They didn't have time to use them all.

Q. Do you know how many of these cards were printed for the purpose of plugging at the election? A. Well, the first cards that were printed were not printed for the purpose of plugging at all. They were some which were stolen from the Conservative Association by a man named Woods—H. S. Wods—he was the Deputy Returning Officer in Ward 2 on the day of election.

Q. Yes? A. And it is the same man they tell me who destroyed two ballots that day.

Q. What were these cards that were stolen from the Conservative rooms? A. They had Mr. Tisdall's photo on them.

Q. What was the object of getting them? A. The object of getting them was so that the Conservative Association and their scrutineers would not think that they were pluggers; they would think that these might be some of their own men coming in; it was the same way with the Conservative party; if any man came in and asked for his number on the roll, they gave you a card, and the idea was the same, they would take these men to be alright.

Q. What was the object of their carrying a card with Tisdall's photo on it; what had that got to do with it? A. That was so that the scrutineers would not challenge them.

Q. How would the Conservative scrutineers know that they were not to be challenged? A. Well, the Liberal party thought that the Conservative party were doing the plugging, too.

Q. They thought the same then? A. Yes.

Q. And these men were supposed to show this card when they went into the polling booth, I suppose? A. Yes, they were supposed to show it, but that was not the card that was used.

Q. When Scott saw that you didn't have as many cards as he expected, did he go and get some more himself? A. I told him about it and he asked me to get Mr. Woods to get some more from the Conservative Club; and Woods says, there is too many around there now, I cannot get any more; so Scott says, I will get some more of them myself, and I believe he got them from the Western Specialty Printing Company.

### SCOTT ENAMoured WITH TISDALL'S PHOTO

Q. He did get some more? A. He did get some more, quite a number of them; they were printed with Tisdall's photo on.

Q. And Scott went and got some more? A. Yes, a messenger brought them up in a day or two.

Q. Scott got some more printed with Tisdall's photo on? A. Yes.

### EDMONTON LIBERAL GETS SCARED

Q. Well, what did you do after you got your lists in order and everything arranged for the election day; what happened on election day? A. On the morning of the election; I didn't have much sleep for two or three days before the election, I had been working for two days and three nights right through, and he says to me—

Q. Who said to you—who is this spoke to you? A. Scott says to me, to take these cards around this morning; he says, there was a man named Miller, who was supposed to take these cards, and he got cold feet.

Q. Do you know who he was? A. No, I don't know much about him. I just saw him in the office sometimes having private conversations with Scott.

Q. Do you know where he came from? A. He came from Edmonton.

Q. Do you know that he came out purposely for the election? A. Yes, I saw something in a letter concerning that.



Q. What was the nature of it in the letter? A. What is that?

Q. What was the nature of it? A. Well, I saw a copy of the letter from him, but I do not remember just what was in it now.

Q. You say that he did come out? A. Yes.

Q. Purposely for the election? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know where he is now? A. No, I haven't got any idea. I have been in Seattle for three weeks.

Q. He was supposed to do that portion of the work on election day, look after the cards? A. Yes.

Q. And why didn't he do it? A. I don't know; a man named Scruton came in, and he seemed to be all excited, and he called Scott into the office.

Q. Yes? A. And after a conversation with Scott, Scott seemed to be very flurried about it, and then that was the time they called me in and asked me to take the cards out.

Q. They asked you to take the cards out? A. Yes, and I guess that is the time that Lawler got cold feet.

### PLUGGERS IN ALBANY ROOMS

Q. Yes, what happened? A. Well, I went down there to meet a man named Jack White.

Q. Where did you go? A. I went along Pender Street, just off Abbott Street; and we waited around there for awhile, and Scott came along, and he seen Charlie Fearney there, and we waited around there for fully an hour, and in the meantime White had gone away, and then he came back, and of course he had his pockets full of these cards, and I was afraid of the police, and I walked up and down there, and I asks White what about these cards, and I did not like having them around. I was loyal at that time to the party, and I was doing everything that I could to help them along, and White came back after a time, and he said, is this all the crowd, and I says, yes; and he says, well, what sort of game is Scott playing, he said, why these cards are no good, he says, there are some of them have not got any information on, and some of them have not got the addresses on of the men, and some have not even got the names of some of them, and he says, it would be no good to make any use of these cards; and then he says, supposing anyone went

up to the booth there, and he was asked, what is your business, or where do you live, he would not know what to tell them, he would not know what trade or occupation to say, he would not know anything; these was the cards that had Tisdall's photo on.

Q. Yes? A. So then he arranged for me to go back and get the other cards that had Macdonald's photo on, and we went back and got the other cards, and then the next thing that came to light then was they heard of some men being in the Albany Rooms; and they said that the proper thing was to go and get next to them, you see.

Q. How did that occur; when did you first hear of the men being in the Albany Rooms? A. I heard that from White, and Scott was with him some of the time.

Q. Where was this that you heard about the men being in the Albany Rooms? A. This was down on Pender Street; and we heard that the proprietor was a Conservative, you see.

Q. Yes? A. And of course we had to get the men away out of the Albany Rooms, and so of course we took two cars up there, and of course, the cars had blue ribbons on.

Q. Who put the blue ribbon on the cars? A. Mr. Scruton.

Q. Did you see him put them on? A. Yes, I think he put it on by Spencer's.

Q. Were you present when he put the blue ribbon on the cars? A. Oh yes, he tied it on himself. And Jack White, and one of the boys, got some blue ribbon on their cars, and they tied it on this car that White was in. I kept one of the pieces of blue ribbon myself, I untied it off the car, and kept it in remembrance of the day.

Corroborative Evidence:—Kenneth James Allen, Chauffeur, in witness box: Questioned by Mr. Miller.

Q. Did you have any blue ribbons on the auto? A. We did.

Q. Where did you first see them on the auto? A. Well, they were put on when we were in front of Spencer's, I think; I know it was on the car when we were down at Spencer's.

### LANDLADY TESTIFIES

Mrs. Moore, who, under instructions from the Parliamentary Committee, searched the trunk left at her rooming house by Pearce,



produced the piece of blue ribbon Pearce said was kept in remembrance of the day.

By Mr. Miller:

Q. This is the blue ribbon you found according to Mr. Pearce's instructions? A. Yes.

### THE BLUE RIBBON BRIGADE

Q. Then you say you kept your blue ribbon on the car, and you kept some of the cards? A. Yes, up in the rooms.

Q. What did you do with the car this day? A. We went up to the Albany Rooms, and of course, we didn't pull up in front of the Albany Rooms, we pulled up on the side of the street; I think the name of the street is—I forget what is the name of the street; but we pulled up alongside the Barron Hotel, off Granville Street, and alongside the Barron Hotel; Vancouver people, they will know where I mean. We pulled up alongside of there, and the men walked down to the Albany, and got in the autos there, and we took them down to Stanley Park, and that was when the cigars and the cigarettes came to light.

Q. You took these men down to the Park? A. Yes.

Q. Who was with you? A. Jack White.

Q. What was the object in getting these men away from the Albany Rooms into Stanley Park? A. Well, sir, so that they could locate a place to put these men in, when they left the Albany Rooms.

Q. Why did you have to remove them from the Albany Rooms? A. They got word that the proprietor of the Albany Rooms was a Conservative.

Q. Yes? A. And they thought that he was likely to do something about it, and so they thought it was safer to get them away.

### SCOTT ALIAS STEWART

Q. When you left the Park, who did you leave there with these men? A. A man named Monte White was in charge of the men then.

Q. Do you know where Monte White came from? A. Yes, from Seattle.

Q. Do you know anything about the men coming from Seattle?  
A. Yes, I know all about the men coming from Seattle.

Q. Who made the arrangements for the men coming from Seattle? A. Scott and Jack White, as far as I know, because the morning of their arrival Scott came in, after his return from being away, he had been absent out of town for a few days, and Scott came back in there, and he said, if a man phones up for anybody by the name of Stewart, he said, you answer the phone and you tell him I will be down directly; and of course, he came in early in the morning, and he went up home to the Joneses where he was staying, and about half-past six I think it was, that evening, this man telephoned up, and he asked for Mr. Stewart, and I said Mr. Stewart is not here—of course, that was Scott—Scott had put me wise to that, when he said if anybody phones up and asks for Stewart, it would be him; and when this telephone message came, he was out, and I told him, this man that telephones, that Scott would be down shortly; so when Scott came in, I told him that this man had phoned up; and he said, where is he now, and I said, he said he would be waiting there for you, and to go down straight away, so Scott went. I don't know where he went.

Q. Do you know who the man was who telephoned and asked for Stewart? A. That was Jack White.

Q. Did you hear any conversations, or did you have any conversations with anybody prior to the election in reference to bringing men over from Seattle? A. Prior to the day of election?

Q. Yes? A. Oh, yes.

### ROBSON, PRINCESS AND CALUMET ROOMS

Q. Which rooms were you operating in? A. I was operating all the time—which rooms?—from the Robson Rooms and the Princess Rooms and the Calumet Rooms.

Q. That is all that you know about? A. Yes, that is all I know about the rooms.

Q. Those are all the rooms you know of? A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any person who was operating from any other rooms? A. I do not; unless Gosden might have been somewhere—I didn't know what his business was with Scott; he was always too secret about it.



## DISPUTE ABOUT PAY

Q. In any event you were detailed to look after the Princess Rooms and the Robson Rooms? A. Yes, along with a man named Fearney; he was engaged for part of the time and helped me to look after some of these men.

Q. How long was he engaged with you? A. He was with me for about an hour. And well together, he was with me from about half-past two to four o'clock in the afternoon, and then there was a dispute that arose down at the Calumet Rooms where the men said that they were not going to vote any more unless they got their money.

Q. You heard of this dispute in the Calumet Rooms? A. Yes.

Q. About what time was that? A. That would be about four o'clock.

Q. What happened in connection with that dispute? A. I took Annance from the Calumet Rooms round to the Robson Rooms, where he was paid all the money.

## ANNANCE GETS \$220 FROM SCOTT

Q. Who did he meet there? A. He met White and Scott in my presence and Scott paid the money to him. He pulled a roll big enough to choke a horse and paid him the money.

Q. Could you tell us anywhere near how much money he paid to Annance at that time? A. He paid Annance \$10 apiece for twenty men, that was \$200; and then there was a couple of men that was down there, I think Annance said that the landlord wanted to put in, and I think he got another \$20 for those two men, I would not be sure about that, but I know there was some other men that got \$15 or \$10 a piece, I don't know just how much they got, but it amounted altogether to something like \$250. I would not be exact but I know it was paid, and they were \$10 bills.

Q. What did you do then? A. Then we gave Annance sixty cards; that is for twenty men; they were supposed to put in three plugs a piece, and we took them from there to Ward 5; and that is about the time when an accident occurred on the corner, just opposite the drug store, and we were halted there a bit to watch this accident.

Q. Yes? A. There was some old gentleman who was knocked over, somebody getting off the street car or a collision, I don't know just exactly what it was, and we were there for some time, I suppose, for a few minutes. Anyway, the money was enough to pay the twenty men, and the idea was that these twenty men were to put in three plugs a piece; but there were only fourteen went up, so when I got back I told Annance about it, and I said that they had got all the cards to do it with. And I told him that I went with them, and these men went inside there, and they came out and I guess they voted alright.

Q. The intention was that they were to vote? A. The intention was that they should put in their vote three times.

### EARNING THAT TEN DOLLARS

Q. You have told us that the men from the Robson Rooms, and the Princess Rooms, were the men whom you were driving around to the polls to plug? A. You bet you; I drove them every time.

Q. You went with them as a kind of director? A. Yes; I went with them every time and I saw that they went in the booth. Of course, there was one man that came out and he said that he didn't vote that time, and he is in the room at the present time; he told me that he had forgotten the address, he said, and they challenged him, and he said he didn't like to do any more, if they didn't want to take his word for it he would not vote, and he walked out of the place, this is what the man told me; that is the man over there (indicating in room); he didn't vote that time; that is the man with the tie on—that was in Ward 2. (A voice): In Ward 1. Witness: I thought it was Ward 2.

Q. Well, that is alright; he can give his evidence. Did any man kick on being asked to vote so much? A. Yes.

Q. Who was this? A. That was one of the men at the Princess Rooms; he didn't want to vote any more, he said that he would quit; he wanted to get paid another \$10, and he said that was all he was going to do; that was one of the men from the Princess Rooms. And Monte White said, well, he said, I will give you the \$10, but you will have to vote once more, but the other man would not take any notice, and so he just had the \$10.

Q. What were the particular Wards that you did the plugging in? A. Well, principally 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Q. Did you know anything about Ward 7? A. No, I never knew anything about that one.

## SCOTT AND PATTERSON ENGAGE PRINCESS ROOMS

Q. We had the evidence of the landlady of the Princess Rooms that on the Friday before the election somebody had gone there to engage the rooms? A. Yes.

Q. Were you the person? A. No, no; it was Mr. Scott and Patterson.

Q. How do you know that? A. Mr. Jones drove them and the man White was sitting with them, and he had an argument with Scott, and Jones was the man that told me he drove Patterson and Scott up there the night before.

Mr. Brewster: Q. Up where? A. Up to the Princess Rooms.

Mr. Miller: Q. Up to the Princess Rooms? A. Yes.

## A WARMER CLIMATE

Q. After the election was over did you see Scott at any time, did you attempt to see him before he left Vancouver? A. Yes, I had lots of appointments with Scott, but he didn't seem to want to keep them, he was always ready with some reason or other, and I could never get to see him.

Q. Were you paid, did you get all your pay? A. What is that?

Q. Did you get your pay? A. No, not yet; there is a cheque waiting for me yet, \$48. I was supposed to get that on Monday, but they kept making different excuses, and then when they got me on the other side of the line, they said you don't have to take any clothes or anything, you will get all you want when you get on the other side. You just go as you stand.

Q. Well be specific, who do you mean by they? A. They—yes.

Q. You say they got you out, who do you mean? A. Mr. Scott, Mr. Wonderling and Mr. Macdonald.



Q. We might as well clean it up with you say Mr. Scott, Mr. Wonderling and Mr. Macdonald? A. Yes, Wonderling that was the detective from Seattle.

### INTERVIEWED McDONALD

Q. Well, what did you do when you could not get your money from Scott? A. I went to Mr. Macdonald.

Q. Yes? A. That is four weeks ago last Saturday. Mr. Macdonald said, well, he said, how much do we owe you? I says \$48. I says, I have been working for some time for it; and he said, well, I will make arrangements to get it from Pound, that will be alright, and you come in on Monday, and it will be paid; so I went and saw Mr. Pound, and Pound says that Mr. Macdonald told him about this work that had been done, but he says, we do not have any money in the treasury, and we cannot pay you until we get some money in, but you come in again to-morrow, he said, and you shall have it, and that is the way it went. I did not get the money, and so I went back to Mr. Macdonald and told him about it.

Q. When you met Mr. Macdonald, did anybody go with you at all? A. Jones was with me both times.

Q. Did he have a car? A. Yes, it was his own car; he was out for money too.

Q. What did he have money coming for? A. He had a note from Scott for \$65 for services which he had given during the campaign, and for the car—.

Q. Yes? A. And then he had, I think, something like \$250 for the rent of the car for about five months.

### AUTO TRIP COST \$90.00

Q. By motor? A. By motor car. And of course, it cost altogether \$90 for the hire of the car, and the Terminal Taxi Company was the man that took me over, just opposite the Vancouver Hotel, in his big car; it was a Buick-McLaughlin.

Q. And how did you get past the immigration people? A. Well, after a little trouble there, there was a bit of an argument there, the Immigration Officer looked me up and down, and after he had a conversation with Wonderling and one of the officers there, he said, how can you prove that you came from Seattle, and

he asked me a lot of questions, and there was some little argument about it.

Q. What name did you give to him there? A. I said, the name of J. F. Mitchell, that was the name that I was going under then, and he said, when did you come from Seattle, and I said, I came from Seattle last night with Mr. Wonderling; and he asked how I happened to come over from Seattle with Wonderling; and he said to Wonderling, he said, what do you do? so Wonderling pulled out his card, and I know his name was printed on the card, Wonderling, and that is when I knew that his name was Wonderling; I was under the impression that it was Webster all the while before, until I knew about this card, and that is how I got to know the name of Wonderling. And in conversation with him, sometimes I would get mixed, and sometimes call him Wonderling and sometimes call him Webster, and one day he got a little bit sore about it, and he said, — don't get mixed up in those names, and he said, don't you get talking over there like that; and he seemed afraid for fear I should get mixed up in it. Anyhow, he had, I think—I think it was a return fare for two to come over on the boat, and eventually after a little further argument, the way he put this thing up to the Customs Officer, he got me through, and that is how I got through. Of course, I had to pull my leather off my chain, which was in the same pocket, because it had my name on it, so that they would not detect my name; and, of course, all letters I had to be careful about, and I had some letters, in fact, in my pocket which I had not read, and, it was only afterwards when we had passed the Immigration Officer that I got a chance to look at them, and I stuck some of these papers in my sock so that they would not detect my name. Then when we got to Seattle, the first place where we stopped at was the Butler Hotel, that is where Scott was staying under the name of Wright, and they took me from there to the Assembly Hotel.

Q. Who paid for the trip? A. Scott.

Q. How much did he pay for it? A. Scott gave it to Wonderling.

Q. How much did he pay him? A. I think Wonderling paid \$40 in Vancouver on it; and Scott paid \$50 in Seattle, that is as far as I can remember of it; I know it was \$90.

Q. Did you get your money? A. I have not got it yet; they got me out from Vancouver on the Sunday before the Monday that they promised to pay me.

Q. You did not get any payment on account of it, did you? A. Well, Mr. Macdonald gave me \$2 out of his pocket in his office; I told him that I was hard up.

Q. Were you employed on a regular salary? A. Oh yes, it was to be \$12 a week, sir, from nine o'clock in the morning till any time at night, perhaps all night, and then on to the next day sometimes.

Q. You spoke about them getting you out of Vancouver to Seattle, just tell us what you know about that? A. Well, on the Sunday morning, after the meeting in Mr. Macdonald's office, he rang me up, this is after the meeting on the Saturday at his office; and after I told him there that I knew all about the plugging, in fact, everything that was to be known about the plugging, and I told him I was broke, I got the \$2, and I come away from the office. Then the next morning after, the first thing, Mr. Macdonald rung me up, and he told me to go over to North Vancouver to the St. Alice Hotel, where I would meet a man over there, and he gave me a description of the man; and Mr. Macdonald told me his name was Wright. Well, I was getting prepared to go over to North Vancouver when the telephone rang again, so I said to Mrs. Jones, if anybody wants me, tell them I am not in; so this man who was supposed to be Mr. Wright, he rang up, and he said, Well, Pearce, stay there; and Jones says, well he is coming over to see you then, and he put up the receiver. While I was having breakfast he came to the door, and of course, I had told Jones his description, you see, and Jones got me out of the back door, and I was to meet him down the avenue about two blocks away from there, after a little while. After a little conversation this man said he had just come from Mr. Macdonald's office, and that he was to meet me up in North Vancouver, and, of course, Jones brought him.

### LONG DISTANCE, PLEASE

Pearce says all kinds of messages passed between Victoria and Seattle during Parliamentary Investigation. Telephone Company's records as proof:



May 17—Patterson (Victoria) to Scott (Seattle).  
May 18—Patterson (Victoria) to Scott (Seattle).  
May 18—Scott (Seattle) to Macdonald (Victoria).  
May 19—Patterson (Victoria) to Scott (Seattle).  
May 22—Macdonald (Victoria) to Scott (Seattle).  
May 23—Macdonald (Victoria) to Patterson (Tacoma).  
May 24—Macdonald (Victoria) to Scott (Seattle).  
May 24—Patterson (Victoria) to Jerry L. Finch (Seattle).

Q. Were there any long distance messages to Scott while you were there? A. All kinds of messages, and I expect you would find them all charged up at the Pacific Long Distance Telephone Company. There was quite a lot of them, and I suppose they were all charged up when they came.

Q. What was the nature of these communications, or the messages, did you ever discuss those matters with Scott? A. Well, I didn't need to discuss it, on account of hearing the messages myself over the telephone, if I was not in the same room I would be in the next room, and the door was open.

Q. All you would hear would be one end of it? A. Only one end of it.

Q. What was the nature of the conversations? A. It was for money, from Mr. Macdonald.

Q. Who was asking for money? A. Scott was asking for money. And I remember on one occasion, and I know this time that he had \$10 coming, and I know where the money came from because I was with Scott when the \$10 came over, and that is how I know how it was.

Q. You were with Scott when he got this money? A. I was with Scott when he got that \$10, he rang up Mr. Macdonald, and he had a conversation for a while, and then he said, you might send that \$10. That is just the words he used; he said, you might send that \$10. So Scott, of course, said, don't send it in your name, so when the wire came through at ten o'clock that night, it was just about that time, it was the \$10.

Q. You say this money was sent by wire? A. Yes, through the Western Union Company; and Scott and me went down to the Western Union Company to get the money, because he was going to send his wife over, which used to be Miss Knight; he was going

to send her over the next day, and then he said he would wait for a couple of days and see if he could not get some money, and at the same time he had a letter for his wife to take to Mr. Macdonald at Victoria, to get some more money, and this letter was about that, and Jack said, I will be able to give you any amount of money then when she gets back.

## DANGER SIGNALS

### Jerry Finch Journeys Often to Victoria, Coming Back With Hush Money

Q. You didn't hear of any wire saying that he was willing to come? A. No. I don't know anything about that; the only thing I know is that there was a long distance call, on Saturday, to the Empress Hotel at Victoria from Seattle.

Q. When was that, last Saturday? A. Yes.

Q. Last Saturday? A. To the Empress Hotel; it was a long distance call for Finch, you understand, everybody was getting worried about things, and Scott was very worried about money, we were in the position of not being able to have anything to eat unless Finch brought the money, but Finch come over, and he said, that when Finch come over, Scott said, he would get the money, and give it to me, but I never seen it. And there was Mrs. Scott, she was in Victoria, so I understood, at any rate, that is what I heard. So Scott telephoned up to the Empress Hotel, and he said, well get Paterson, and Paterson was out at that time, and they didn't know where he was; and you should have heard the remarks that Scott put over the phone when he heard that they could not get Paterson for him. Anyway, after a time, they got Paterson, and Finch phoned to him on the long distance phone, after that time, and he said, I am coming over, and everything is alright, and there will be all the money you want when I come over, and so this is what Scott told me when Finch come over, he got the money; I know that Scott had all kinds of money then, but I never seen any of it.

Q. That was last Saturday, was it? A. Yes. And the reason that I know that the letter was about money was that Scott passed the remark over the table, because Mrs. Scott wrote all the letters that came over here, and the remark was passed about the money in that letter, so I knew then that this is what he wanted, and she said, about the money that he had, why, she said, that will never



last long; so that proved to me that the long distance phone calls was about the money, it showed what the character of those long distance phone messages was.

### JERRY FINCH, MACDONALD'S CONFIDANT

Q. Do you know what Finch came over to Victoria for? A. What he came over for, this last trip?

Q. Yes? A. Oh, for money; Scott had none; it was mentioned in that letter.

Mr. Brewster: Q. Did Finch have more than one trip? A. Oh, yes.

Mr. Miller: Q. Do you know if there was more than one trip by Finch to Victoria? A. Finch had a good many trips.

Q. Did he have more than one trip to Victoria, Finch? A. Oh, yes; more than one trip; I don't know how many trips he had, but I remember this one in particular, I remember that one very well, because it was on a Saturday, and Scott never had a cent of money, and when Finch came over from Victoria, and after Scott had seen him, Scott had all kinds of money, but I didn't get much of it.

### PEARCE TIRED OF CONFINEMENT

Q. When was it that you agreed to come here—when did you get here? A. When did I get here?

Q. Yes, to Victoria? A. I got here in Victoria yesterday morning; it would be about 9 o'clock, on the boat—the Sol Duc, No. 2, and I have been here ever since.

Q. Have you been promised anything for coming over? A. No, nothing at all.

Q. You have not been promised any remuneration for coming over? A. I only came over to clear myself, and to say what I knew of the affair; of course, I was to get my expenses; I was to get my fare paid and expenses.

Q. Is this the first opportunity really that you have had of giving your evidence in this matter? A. I never had an opportunity—I can tell you that the way I have been treated prevented me doing anything, and if I had got the money I would have been over before.

Q. You would have come over on your own account? A. I wanted to clear myself, and I would have come on my own account.

Q. You would have come of your own wish? A. Sure.

Q. And without waiting for anybody? A. Sure, certainly.

Q. If you had had enough money? A. Yes, if I had enough money.

Q. You would have come over without seeing anybody? A. Yes, if I could have done so; and even if I had enough money, they were watching me all the time so that I could not have come over.

### LIBERAL SPY IN CONSERVATIVE ROOMS

Q. You spoke of H. S. Woods, a returning officer? A. Yes.

Q. Who is he? A. He was an acquaintance of mine that was engaged by Mr. Scott to do the work in connection with obtaining information from the Conservative Association.

Q. He was a spy put in the Conservative Rooms? A. Yes.

Q. By Scott? A. By Scott, yes.

### WORKING AGAINST CONSERVATIVES

Q. What was his position to be; what was the object of putting him in the Conservative Rooms? A. He was supposed to go there, and ask for a job as canvasser; and he got the job for canvassing; in fact, he offered his services to the Association, and he got a membership in the Conservative Club; and when he came to Scott, he told him that his membership was just about up in the Conservative Association, and he said to Scott, why, I have got to pay another \$2 for my membership, and Scott gave him the \$2 so as to continue his membership, and he went and paid his fees up, and he was supposed to go out canvassing for the Association, and if these men were at the addresses he was to report back again to the Conservative Association; and he had some little brown books, with a sort of greenish colored leaf, and he had to come back from his canvassing and say whether the men were there at the residence or not, that they were out of the country, when they would be there all the while; he would report that they were out of the country, and if the men were not there he used to go back and say that they were there; and he also used to bring in lists of stuff that the stenogra-

phers used to type out; he used to steal that stuff, and he used to get hold of the books as well, he was working mostly in Ward 2.

Q. Why would he come back and say that the men were not there, or were there—what was the object of it? A. I don't know the object.

Q. Well, what difference would it make; there would be a reason for doing it? A. Well, I suppose he would know the object, but I don't know what it was done for.

Q. Why would he come back and report that men were there when they were not there, or say that they were not there and come back and report that they were? A. I don't know that; I just suppose that he was working against the Conservatives in that particular work, and it would give them a good deal of trouble in trying to trace those men.

Q. You mean to say that he would simply hand in false reports? A. I suppose he would give them false reports.

### THIEL DETECTIVE FINDS NOTHING WRONG IN CONSERVATIVE ROOMS

Charles Frederick Redington, called and duly sworn, testified:

Examined by Mr. Miller:

Q. What is your full name, Mr. Redington? A. Charles Frederick Redington.

Q. What is your occupation? A. I am the manager of the Thiel Detective Service Company in Vancouver.

Q. And you were the manager of that company at the time of the bye-election? A. Yes.

Q. Were you employed at all in connection with the bye-election in Vancouver? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who employed you? A. Mr. M. A. Macdonald.

Q. Who did you see first in connection with it? A. J. T. Scott.

Q. As a result of the conversation between you and Mr. Scott, what happened? A. As a result of the conversation between myself and Mr. Scott, I sent him a letter saying that in undertaking work of this magnitude, I would require the signature of somebody who might be financially responsible, that I would not act unless



I could get the signature of someone who would be financially responsible, and I sent him an order, that he might get it signed, stating what the work was for; and I received the order back from him in a day, or in a couple of days afterwards, signed by Mr. M. A. Macdonald, and coupled with it, J. T. Scott's signature.

Q. I see, then your instructions were in writing? A. My instructions were in writing.

Q. And signed by Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Scott? A. Yes, that is right.

Q. Did you make the investigation? A. I did, sir.

Q. And did you receive at any time any information which would lead you to believe that the Conservative Association were carrying on any illegal work? A. No, sir, we didn't.

Q. And you so reported? A. We so reported.

Q. From day to day? A. From day to day.

Q. How did you keep in touch? A. By cultivating members of the Association there.

Q. Yes? A. We had one of our operators right there.

Q. You had an operator in the Conservative Committee Rooms? A. Yes sir, one.

Q. You had one in the committee rooms taking part in the campaign? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Could you tell me what impelled the advertisements in the newspapers about the time to the effect that the Conservatives were bringing in pluggers? A. No sir, I could not tell you that.

Q. You don't know anything about that advertisement going into the papers, which was placed in the papers? A. I did not, sir.

Q. Who paid you for your services? A. Mr. M. A. Macdonald, partially.

#### EXTRACTS FROM COMMITTEE'S REPORT

"That in connection with the said bye-election in Vancouver a conspiracy to carry on personation on an extensive scale was entered into with the object of securing the election of the Liberal candidate.

"That, prior to election day, lists for the purpose of facilitating personation were prepared by J. T. Scott and his assistants.

"That, for some time prior to the election, J. T. Scott was employed by the organization committee of the Provincial Liberal Association, said committee being composed of Mr. M. A. Macdonald, Mr. James Stables, Mr. J. W. de B. Farris, Mr. F. R. McD. Russell, and others.

"That the said John T. Scott and his assistants were paid their salary by the Provincial Liberal Association, of which Mr. M. A. Macdonald is president and Mr. A. M. Pound is treasurer.

"That the witness H. H. Pearce, one of the employees in J. T. Scott's office, who was active in conveying personators to the polls on election day, was induced to go to Seattle by motor car, where he was kept for three weeks, practically under duress, to prevent him from appearing before the Committee."

### NO MINORITY REPORT

Mr. Brewster and Mr. Parker Williams, members of the Investigation Committee, made no protest against the acceptance of the Committee's report by the Legislature, neither did they exercise their constitutional right of bringing in a minority report; this would suggest acceptance of the Committee's finding and admission of wrong doing on behalf of Liberal candidate.





# Fac-simile of Cards issued to Pluggers

(Made from exhibit put in at investigation by the witness Barrow)

Name Thomas Bealand

Address .....

You are registered as a Seaman

Your registered address is 627 Broadway E

You vote in Ward 5

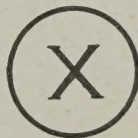
Your number is 249

[OVER]

## SAMPLE BALLOT

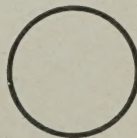
**MACDONALD**

Malcolm A. Macdonald of Vancouver, Barrister



**TISDALL**

Charles E. Tisdale of Vancouver, Merchant



Mark Your Ballot Thus

